(c) The aim of the Government has been to ensure that complete peace and normalcy is restored in the State of Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest. While continuing sustained action to contain the activities of the terrorists and reduce the fear of the gun, a number of other measures and initiatives have also been taken towards the above objective. These include focussed 'action to step up the pace of development and revival of the economic activities and vocations of the people which had been adversely affected by the terrotist violence; efforts to enhance employment opportunities for the youth the in the State, including those who have moved away from the gun; reactivation of the local administration and police and revival of their normal activities; strengthening the mechanisms for grievances redressal and enlisting the cooperation of the people with the administration; various confidence building measures, including increased transparency, review of cases of detenues and releases from time to time, and involvement of the people themselves in countering the activities of the militants, etc. Special attention has also been given to encourage the mis-guided youth to give up the gun, and return into the mainstream and the democratic process.

Government has been holding reulgar consultations and dialogue with leaders of various political parties and groups, within the State and at the national level. The Prime Minister has visited all the regions of the State, and other senior Ministers and political leaders have also been visiting the State regularly to interact with the people and to take stock of the situation. The Government has also clearly stated its commitment to maximum autonomy for Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in view the aspirations of the people of all regions of the State, and that further discussions in this regard would be held when an elected Government and Assembly are in position. A number of major Development projects, and Schemes for rehabilitation of various sectors of the economy which had been most adversely affected by terrorist violence have also been announced.

The measures and initiatives have had a perceptible positive impact on the situation. In the wake of these developments, action to hold Assembly elections has already been initiated, which has drawn visible positive response from the people and various groups in the State. The Government views this as a further important step in the process of restoration of abiding peace and normalcy in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

गुजरात में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों हेतु लम्बित परियोजनाएं

*577. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग स्थापित करने हेतु कोई परियोजनाएं केन्द्रीय सरकार के अनुमोदनार्थ लम्बित हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका परियोजना-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन परियोजनाओं की अनुमानित लागत कितनी है;

(घ) इन परियोजनाओं के संबंध में कोई निर्णय लेने में विलंब के क्या कारण है, और

(ङ) इस संबंध में कब तक निर्णय लिए जाने की संभावना है?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप कुमार राय): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Central Grants to Mahila Mandals and Yuva Mandals for Wasteland Development in Maharashtra

*578. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Mahila Mandals and Yuva Mandals in

Maharashtra being provided Central Grants under the Grants-in-Aid scheme for encouraging afforestation and wasteland development in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the results achieved by these Mandals during the same period;

(c) whether Government propose to increase Grants in 1996-97 to those Mandals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI YERRAN NAIDU K.): (a) No Mahila Mandal or Yuva Mandal has been provided any assistance under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme in the State of Maharashtra for encouraging afforestation and wasteland development during the last three years.

(b) to (d) In view of the (a) above, (b), (c) and (d) of the question do not arise.

Revision of Population Limit for Accelarated Urban Water Supply Programme

*579. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government had sent a proposal on the 7th December, 1995 for increasing the population limit of a town from the existing 20,000 to 50,000 for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) whether the State Government has also desired to increase the per capita per day quota of water (1. p.c.d.) from 70 litres to 100 litres;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the letter received from the Maharashtra Government, suggestions had been made fro enlarging the scope of the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) to accommodate town having population upto 50,000 and increasing the present norm of providing drinking water @ 70 litres per capita per day (1 pcd) to 100 lpcd.

(d) In reply to the letter, the Central Government has clarified that the present norm of 70 lpcd norm is considered adequate for towns having population upto 1,00,000 as these towns do not generally have large industrial and institutional requirements of water.

As regards the question of extending the scope of the scheme to towns having upto 50,000 population, it was replied that the Working Group on Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Sector for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997—2002) constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended that the population of the towns to be considered under the AUWSP may be increased form 20,000 to 1,00,000. It was also intimated that the Chief Minister's conferene held in New Delhi on 4-5 July, 1996 had also recommended that the coverage of the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme may be extended to the towns having population upto 1,00,000.

Closure of Units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

*580. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the units—I & II of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station which were closed in 1994, are still in-operative;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for their closure;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in making them operational; and